

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1869
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Open Defecation Free Villages
Chaudhary Shri C.R.

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of villages which have been declared as open defecation free during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the amount spent to make these villages open-defecation free during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the policy bottlenecks and implementation deficiencies noticed in making a village open-defecation free along with the remedial action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) The Open Defecation Free (ODF) Guidelines issued in September, 2015. The States/UTs has started reporting since October, 2015. State/UT-wise, number of villages declared as open defecation free as on 31.3.2016 is at Annexure-1.

(b) State/UT-wise, Central share release during last three years and current year is at Annexure-2.

(c) Sanitation is a behavioral issue. It involves change of mindset amongst people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. This requires engagement of community and skill in facilitation and 'triggering'. There is constraint of these capacities. Also, since lack of change of behavior on part of even few members of community can put entire community to risk, another challenge is to saturate the entire village. The scale of issue is also a major challenge. The third difficulty is sustaining behavior change. In order to address these issues, there is increased focus on behavior change and engagement of community for sustainable results. The term open defecation free (ODF) has been defined nationally to have uniform standards and guidelines for verifying ODF have also been issued. Capacity building of key stakeholders such as Collectors/CEO, Zilla Panchayats, Chairman, Zilla Panchayat is being carried out. The monitoring has been strengthened to capture outputs(toilet construction) and also ODF status. Key Resource Centres (KRCs) are roped in for capacity building and supporting the district administration.